

Appl. No. : 09/651,051
Filed : August 24, 2000

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed June 16, 2005 Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Indicated allowable subject matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed Claims 14-24 and that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 30-33 and 35-39 would be in condition for allowance if they were rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 30, 35 and 37 such that they are now in independent form. Claims 31-33 and 34 (as amended) depend upon Claim 30 and, for at least this reason, these claims are also in condition for allowance. Claim 36, as depends upon Claim 35 and Claims 38-39 depend upon Claim 37. Therefore, for at least this reason, Claims 35 and 38-39 are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 28, 29 and 34

Claims 28, 29 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Igarashi et al. (USPN 5,598,817) in view of Osakabe (USPN 5,809,974) and Rhine. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of these claims. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution, Applicant has canceled Claims 28 and 29 and amended Claim 34 such that it now depends upon allowable Claim 30. Applicant reserves the right to pursue Claims 28, 29 and 34 in their original or similar form in a continuing application.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

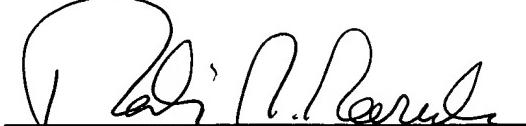
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Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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